

· 临床研究 ·

鼻咽癌组织中错配修复基因 hMLH1 的表达及意义*

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摘要:目的 探讨人类鼻咽癌(NPC)组织中错配修复基因 hMLH1 的表达及其与临床病理特征的关系。方法 采用免疫组化两步法检测 132 例鼻咽癌组织、50 例鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜组织中 hMLH1 的表达。结果 鼻咽癌组织中 hMLH1 的阳性表达率为 55.30%, 明显低于鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜组织中 hMLH1 的阳性表达率(76.00%, $P < 0.05$), 鼻咽癌组织中 hMLH1 表达与鼻咽癌 T、N 分期, 以及临床分期、远处转移有关($P < 0.05$); 与年龄、性别无关($P > 0.05$)。结论 鼻咽癌组织中 hMLH1 表达水平明显下调, hMLH1 可能成为预测鼻咽癌预后的生物学指标之一。

关键词:鼻咽肿瘤; 免疫组织化学; 人类 mut1 同源物 1 基因

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Expression of mismatch repair gene hMLH1 in tissue of human nasopharyngeal carcinoma and its significance^{*}Tan Xiaohong¹, Liu Zhihui^{2△}, Cen Hong¹, Li Gang³, Lao Yongcong¹

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Abstract: Objective To explore the expression of mismatch repair gene hMLH1 in tissue of human nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) and its relation to clinical pathological features. **Methods** Two-step immunohistochemistry was employed to detect the expression of hMLH1 in 132 tissue samples of NPC and 50 mucosa tissue samples of chronic nasopharyngeal inflammation. **Results** The positive expression rate of hMLH1 in NPC tissue was 55.30%, which was significantly lower than that(76.00%) in mucosa tissue of chronic nasopharyngeal inflammation($P < 0.05$). The expression of hMLH1 in NPC tissue had relationship with T, N staging and clinical staging of NPC as well as the presence of distant metastasis($P < 0.05$), while no relationship with age and gender. **Conclusion** The expression level of hMLH1 decreases in NPC tissue and hMLH1 may serve as one of biological markers to predict the prognosis of NPC.

Key words: nasopharyngeal neoplasms; immunohistochemistry; human mut1 homolog 1

鼻咽癌(nasopharyngeal carcinoma, NPC)是由遗传和环境等因素相互作用所致的多基因疾病,除了癌基因活化以及抑癌基因失活外,还有 DNA 修复基因的改变。DNA 修复基因在维持基因组功能完整性、修复致癌因素所致的损伤及抗癌过程中有着重要作用。目前鼻咽癌组织中关于错配修复基因 hMLH1 的研究较少,本研究通过免疫组化的方法检测鼻咽癌组织中 hMLH1 的表达,并探讨其与鼻咽癌临床病理特征之间的关系。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般资料 收集广西医科大学附属肿瘤医院 2010 年 1~12 月 132 例经病理检查确诊为鼻咽部鳞状细胞癌的初治病例标本,其中男 98 例,女 34 例;中位年龄 45 岁。并设同期鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜活检组织标本 50 例为对照组。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 主要试剂 抗人 hMLH1 单克隆抗体购自 Zymed 公司,二步法免疫组化 MaxVisionTM 试剂盒、DAB 显色试剂盒购自福州迈新公司,磷酸盐缓冲液(0.01 mol/L, pH=7.5)、枸橼酸盐抗原修复液(0.01 mol/L, pH=6.0)为国产分析纯试剂,

用双蒸水配置。

1.2.2 操作方法 全部标本经 10% 甲醛固定后石蜡包埋,常规制片,按免疫组化二步法进行染色,操作步骤按试剂盒说明书进行。用已知标准片作为阳性对照,以磷酸缓冲液代替一抗作阴性对照。

1.2.3 结果判断 由两名经验丰富的病理科医师对结果进行判断, hMLH1 阳性表达定位于细胞核内呈棕褐色颗粒。在高倍视野计数 1 000 个癌细胞,参考 Son 等^[1]方法判断。着色强度:不着色为 0 分,弱阳性为 1 分,中等阳性为 2 分,强阳性为 3 分。阳性细胞 0%~5% 为 0 分, 6%~20% 为 1 分, 21%~80% 为 2 分, >80% 为 3 分, 两种得分之积小于或等于 4 分为阴性, >4 分为阳性。

1.3 统计学处理 采用 SPSS13.0 统计软件对数据进行统计分析,计数资料的差异性分析使用 χ^2 检验,以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 hMLH1 在鼻咽癌及鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜组织中的表

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达情况 hMLH1 在鼻咽癌组织中的阳性表达率为 55.30% (73/132), 鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜组织中阳性表达率为 76.00% (38/50), 鼻咽癌组织 hMLH1 表达明显低于鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜组织 ($P < 0.05$), 见封 3 图 1、2。

2.2 hMLH1 表达与鼻咽癌临床病理特征的关系 hMLH1 表达与 T、N 分期, 以及临床分期、远处转移有关 ($P < 0.05$), 分期越晚, hMLH1 表达阳性率有逐渐下降的趋势, 而与年龄、性别无关 ($P > 0.05$), 见表 1。

表 1 hMLH1 表达与鼻咽癌患者相关指标的关系

项目	n	阳性数	阳性率(%)	χ^2	P
T 分期					
T1	21	16	76.19		
T2	43	29	67.44		
T3	36	18	50.00		
T4	32	10	31.25	14.169 0	0.003
N 分期					
N0	28	22	78.57		
N1	37	23	62.16		
N2	44	20	45.45		
N3	23	8	34.78	12.481 7	0.006
临床分期					
I	19	15	78.95		
II	41	27	65.85		
III	43	21	48.84		
IV a	29	10	34.48	11.956 4	0.008
复发、转移					
无	103	63	61.17		
有	29	10	34.48	6.517 5	0.011
性别					
男	98	53	54.08		
女	34	20	58.82	0.229 6	0.631
年龄(岁)					
≥45	72	42	58.33		
<45	60	31	51.67	0.588 4	0.442

3 讨 论

hMLH1 基因是人类错配修复基因中研究较多的一种, 1994 年由 Bronner 等^[2]在研究遗传性非息肉性结直肠癌的过程中发现, 它定位于染色体的 3P21.3-23, 基因组 DNA 全长约 58 kb (不包括启动子), 含 19 个外显子, cDNA 全长 2 484 bp, 编码长度为 2 268 bp 的开放阅读框架。hMLH1 蛋白与其功能相对均匀定位于细胞核, 在正常细胞组织中表达良好^[3]。目前研究表明 hMLH1 基因表达下调与多种肿瘤发生有关, 如头颈部鳞癌^[4]、口腔鳞癌^[5-6]、胃癌^[7]、结直肠癌^[8]、肝癌^[9]、肾癌^[10]、食管癌^[11]等, 而 hMLH1 表达下调主要与启动子甲基化及微卫星不稳定性 (MSI) 有关。

韩为农等^[12]用 cDNA 阵列比较鼻咽癌组织及鼻咽部正常组织的基因表达谱发现 hMLH1 处于下调状态, 提示 hMLH1

可能与鼻咽癌发生有一定关系。推测在鼻咽细胞癌变过程中, hMLH1 表达下调导致错配修复效率的下调, 使 DNA 修复功能受到抑制, 受损 DNA 不能得到即时修复, 从而引起细胞的自发性突变, 参与鼻咽癌的多步骤、多阶段过程。

局部原发灶分期、区域淋巴结转移、远处脏器转移是影响鼻咽癌预后的重要因素, 局部分期越晚、有局部淋巴结转移及远处脏器转移的患者生存期较短。本研究结果显示, hMLH1 表达与鼻咽癌 T、N 分期, 以及临床分期、远处转移有关 ($P < 0.05$), 与年龄、性别无关 ($P > 0.05$)。T、N 分期及临床分期越晚, hMLH1 的表达有逐步下降的趋势, 提示 hMLH1 表达下调有可能是鼻咽癌预后不良的分子标志。Zuo 等^[4]认为 hMLH1 表达下调是头颈部鳞癌的预后不良因素。但是 Park 等^[13]认为在散发性结直肠癌中 hMLH1 下调与淋巴结转移数、是否有远处器官转移有关, 淋巴结转移数少、无远处器官转移者 hMLH1 下调更多见, hMLH1 下调者总生存期明显还长。这些研究结果的差异说明 hMLH1 有可能在不同恶性肿瘤的发生、发展过程中所起的作用不同。

本研究通过免疫组化法检测 hMLH1 蛋白表达, 发现鼻咽癌组织 hMLH1 蛋白表达明显低于鼻咽部慢性炎症的黏膜组织, 提示鼻咽癌的发生可能与 hMLH1 表达下调有关。并且 hMLH1 蛋白表达下调与 T、N 分期, 以及临床分期、远处转移有关, 但 hMLH1 表达下调的具体机制以及 hMLH1 是否能成为鼻咽癌新的分子预后指标尚待深入研究。

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